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economy; and what is practically of great importance to most of our readers, the means of collecting medical data. At a time when the old prejudice against the use, or rather the abuse, of figures and facts is fast wearing away, the judicious and reasonable view which our author takes of the value of observations properly made and well selected, will be read with great and increasing interest.

The translation of this useful work by Mr. Downes is made in general with great judgment, and in a simple, easy, and elegant style, which permits his version to be perused with greater pleasure than translations generally afford to the reader. Here and there words or phrases may be noticed which probably with longer time for preparation might have been altered into more idiomatic English; such, for instance, as "revoke in doubt," for "call in question" the benefits of science. The "modest" produce of his labours, for the "moderate" produce. "Parties" is translated "parts," when the application is to the "games" of war. "On aurait lieu de plaindre un pays" is translated "he would have to complain of a country;" instead of being rendered "a country would be to be pitied," &c. But these are slight faults, and are only noticed lest they should escape detection in a reperusal for another edition. The work itself is got up in a very superior style; and the printing of the tables and the diagrams in the notes particularly deserve to be mentioned with praise.

Single and Annual Assurance Premiums for every value of Annuity on Single or Joint Lives or Survivors, adapted to any Table of Mortality at $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 4, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 6, and 7 per cent. Also a table for the formation of Half-yearly and Quarterly Assurance Premiums. By WILLIAM ORCHARD, A.I.A. London: W. S. D. Pateman, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street. 1850.

To those who are conversant with the subject, the title alone of this work will be no small recommendation. It was a very happy thought of Mr. Orchard's to exhibit values for every possible annuity afforded by any mortality table, combined with the above rates of interest, by giving them for every number from 0 to the number which nearly expressed the value of a perpetuity. Mr. William Wood seems to have entertained the same idea previously to Mr. Orchard; but there is no doubt that the latter came upon it quite independently. Whatever praise, however, is due on the score of the conception, we think the mode in which it is carried out is entitled to still higher commendation. Nothing can be more simple and convenient than the arrangement adopted. We believe it would be scarcely possible to improve upon it. To have made the "regular series," as Mr. Peter Gray would call it, consist of more than three figures, would have greatly increased the bulk of the book, and made references in it troublesome; by limiting the series to three figures this is avoided, whilst the "proportional parts" thus required for the fifth figure, are so arranged as to be got at with the utmost facility. Great care seems to have been taken to attain a perfect accuracy, and every appliance made use of with that object, which considerable mathematical attainments, and great familiarity with the various processes needed, were able to supply. Such tables as these are invaluable, not only on account of the labour which they save, but for their obviating so completely the liability to error which must always present itself in making even the simplest calculation.

Works recently published:—

- Caisse de Retraites et Pensions Viagères pour la Vieillesse. Paris. 1850.
- Church Leases. By W. H. Grey, Accountant and Arbitrator, Associate of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and Ireland, and Secretary to the Committee of Members of the Committee of the two Houses of Parliament on Church Leases. London: J. Ridgway, Piccadilly. 1851. 2s. 6d.
- Etudes Statistiques sur la Mortalité et la Durée de la Vie dans la Ville et l'Arrondissement de Dijon, depuis le 17^e Siècle jusqu'à nos jours. By M. C. Noirot, M.D.. Paris: J. B. Baillière, Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine. Dijon: La Marche et Drouelle, Place St. Etienne.
- Medical Combinations against Life Assurance Companies. London: Orr & Co. 1851. 1s.
- Statistical Journal. Vol. XIV. London: J. W. Parker. 2s. 6d.
- Part I., March, 1851.—Vital Statistics of Ireland. By P. A. Schleisner, M.D.—Contribution to the Vital Statistics of Scotland. By James Stark, M.D., F.R.S.E., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.
- Part II., May, 1851.—Mortality and chief Diseases of the Troops under the Madras Government, European and Native, from the years 1842 to 1846 inclusive, compared with the Mortality and chief Diseases of 1847. By Lieut.-Col. W. A. Sykes, F.R.S.
- The Property and Income Tax the Best Tax for the Community, &c. By E. Erskine Scott, Esq., F.I.A., Actuary of the East of Scotland Life Assurance Company.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.

HAVING in the three preceding Numbers of the *Assurance Magazine* given an epitome of the Reports, so far as they have been published, of the Assurance Companies of Great Britain in various branches of the business for one entire year, from September 1849 to September 1850, we had intended in this and following Numbers to have continued the series to the latest date. The importance, however, of the Meeting which was held in the rooms of the Institute, and the dinner which was given to the representatives of Assurance interests in foreign countries, and to other distinguished men in this country who have devoted themselves to sanitary statistics, and other questions of social and political economy, in which actuaries ought to be conversant, will prove, we hope, a sufficient apology for devoting the remainder of our space to give as complete a report as we can put together of the proceedings of the 5th of July.

No one who took part in these proceedings can hesitate to believe that very important consequences are likely to result from what at first might appear only a social and festive meeting. The extraordinary activity and energy with which the business of assurance in some branches has been prosecuted on the Continent has but lately become known in England; and we must confess that the information obtained in reply to our inquiries has affected us with somewhat of surprise as well as gratification. The talent,